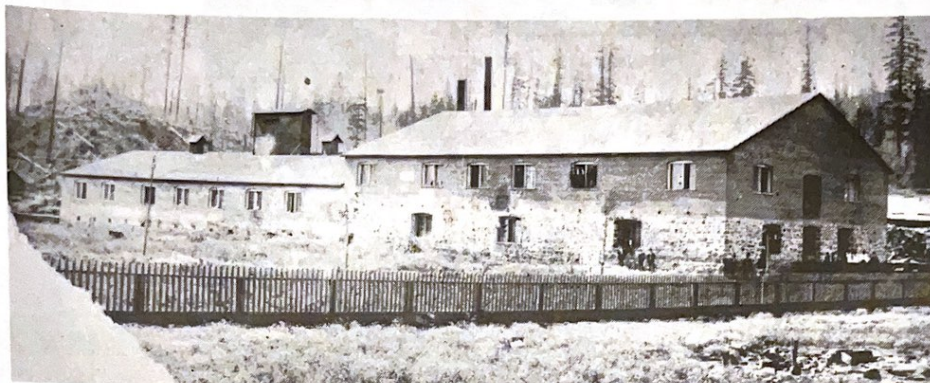


Like it or not, Camas IS paper



THE FIRST CAMAS MILL was built in 1883, but burned to the ground in 1886. Total loss was estimated at from \$100,000 to \$150,000. The mill was rebuilt, though, and back in production May 3, 1888.

Like it or not, Camas is synonymous with paper.

The Camas mill, under various ownerships, has been in existence for 92 years, since 1884. However, it did not actually begin to produce pulp and paper until April, 1885.

The Zellerbach family has been in the paper business for 106 years.

The Crown Zellerbach Corp. in its present form, has been operating for 48 years.

Though more and more industry is coming to this area, Camas is still paper. Camas can look to paper for its heritage, its roots.

On May 12, 1883, representatives of the LaCamas Colony Co. carefully perused the present area of Camas. Those early businessmen saw plenty of flat land on which to build a paper mill, and even a more plentiful supply of water with which to power their mill. Lumber was abundant. They decided to build a paper mill here.

Henry L. Pittock, founder of the Portland Oregonian newspaper, was also the head of the LaCamas Colony Co. He wanted to build a paper mill so he could have his own paper supply with which to

satisfy the voracious needs of his new newspaper presses.

He decided to start work on a series of dams and a mill ditch so that water could, by gravity flow, be transferred from Lackamas Lake to the mill site.

LaCamas Colony Co. filed articles of incorporation for the Columbia River Paper Co. in 1884. The paper industry in Camas was on its way.

In reality, the paper industry in Camas was on its way prior to 1884. Before papers of incorporation were filed, crews were already clearing and preparing land in 1883, and in July of that year construction was started on a sawmill to supply lumber for the coming paper mill.

It was on Sept. 10, 1883, that the original Camas townsite was laid out. The paper mill began Camas, and the mill is still the father of the city.

Business was good for the new mill. In fact, the mill couldn't keep up with local construction.

A crew of 30 Chinese were brought into the area by the paper mill in March of 1884 to start work on the mill ditch to bring water from the lake to power the

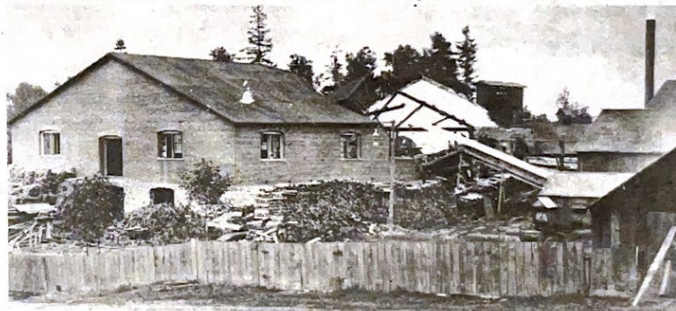
paper machines and for use in making paper.

Between making paper, primarily for the Oregonian, and providing lumber for local construction, the mill bustled with prosperity — for about one and one-half years, anyway.

Disaster raised its ugly head on Nov. 6, 1886, when

The mill was rebuilt and back in production on May 3, 1888. To meet expanded needs the mill was built on a larger scale than before.

In 1905, the first merger involving the mill came about. The Crown Paper Co., which had a plant in West Linn, Ore., and the Columbia River Paper Co.



HERE'S THE PAPER MILL in 1890. This was the second building. The first, a frame building had been destroyed by fire. A major accident happened to this building in June 1890, when a boiler blew up, wrecking a considerable portion of the mill. This picture shows where part of the roof was blown off by the explosion.

the mill in LaCamas, Washington Territory, burned to the ground. Total loss was estimated at between \$100,000 and \$150,000.

Directors of the Columbia River Paper Co. did not waver, however.

merged to form the Crown Columbia Paper Co.

Under the new company's leadership, the bag factory was constructed

with another series of mergers. Lebanon Paper Co. and Willamette Paper Co. merged with Crown Columbia Paper Co. to form

'Disaster raised its ugly head... when the mill burned to the ground.'

in 1906, shortly after the San Francisco earthquake and fire. The bag factory was equipped with 14 machines.

A full scale expansion program was begun in 1907, resulting in the addition of new sulphite digesters, a building to house them and a jump in sulphite production from 10 to 38 tons per day.

Crown Willamette, the second largest manufacturer of paper in the world.

During this same period, the Zellerbach organization, which was started in San Francisco in 1870 by Anthony Zellerbach, was clawing its way to the top of the paper industry.

The Zellerbach family was to eventually extend its reach, and its name, to Camas, Wash.

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TAKEN IN THE 1900 to 1910 time period, the Camas mill's 'old Cannon Ball' No. 3 paper machine (cylinder type) is shown off by Henry D. Starks (right) and two unidentified men.